

ITALIAN DRIVE DIVIDES AUSTRIAN POSITIONS ON PIAVE

AMERICANS THWART GERMAN PLANS TO REACH MEAUX

NO AUSTRIAN
MACHINES ALOFT

Aerial Situation at Piave Front
Entirely Dominated by
Defenders.
RESISTANCE IS DESPERATE

As Italians Realize Failure of
First Phase of Enemy
Offensive.

(Associated Press)
London, June 20.—News reached London this afternoon that the Italians have regained Capo Sile, the town on the lagoon to the west of the Piave river near its mouth, which was captured by the Austro-Hungarians. It is also reported that the Italians have regained all the territory between Zenson and the Fossetta canal. The Austro-Hungarians, it is declared, have been confined to the ground between the Fossetta canal and the Sile canal, on the west bank of the Piave river.

(Caposile lies at the delta of the Piave river and is about sixteen miles northeast of Venice. Zenson lies at a bend in the Piave river between five and six miles north of Caposile. The Fossetta canal flows into the Piave between Zenson and Caposile.)

Italian Army Headquarters, June 20.—The Italians have won complete control of the air along the Piave line where the most determined fighting of the present Austrian offensive is in progress. This afternoon not a single Austrian machine was aloft on this front.

In general the situation of the Austrians along the Piave appears far from satisfactory to the prisoners taken by the Italians. All declare the Austrian army has little food. Some of the prisoners have not eaten for forty-eight hours.

Bridges Destroyed.
The river Piave, overflowing its banks, has destroyed several pontoon bridges constructed by the Austrians at Intestadura, and also at Sandona Di Piave. This has increased the difficulty of the Austrians in their rear communications, affecting the transportation of artillery, ammunition, food and fresh troops.

It is stated that the Austrians fighting south of the Piave river continue to implore help, and also that two of their divisions have been greatly reduced by losses.

Y. M. C. A. ambulances and also the American Red Cross supplies are proving useful to the Italians, both for refugees and on trains, and also for wounded soldiers.

In a trip by the correspondent along the entire front, completed this evening, there was found ample evidence that the Austrian hunger offensive had failed.

Marksmanship Poor.
Except for their crossings of the Piave, the Austrians got nothing for their attacks upon the Italians or the Anglo-French forces aside from front-line observation posts, which already have been retaken.

The trip brought out clearly the fact that the Austrian marksmanship was exceedingly poor during the attack. The enemy's fire was frequently slack and often very useless because of the cutting of the Austrian telephone communications by the Italian gun fire.

Spurred to Extreme.
Realization that the Austrian offensive has failed is spurring the Italian troops to a desperate resistance along the Piave. Heavy fighting continued today around the Montello plateau on the north and near San Dona Di Piave on the south.

On Montello, which is hilly and wooded, the opposing forces frequently stumbled upon each other unexpectedly. Such meetings always result in sharp encounters.

The spirit of the Italian troops is at high pitch despite wounds, loss of sleep and constant movements made necessary by the conditions of the terrain at several points.

Gun Front Surrenders.
As thousands of Italian and Austrian

CONTRADICTORY REPORTS
FROM ROME AND VIENNA

Latter in Official War Statement Claims All
Ground Held and Italians Pushed Back.

Terms Success at Asiago "Poor."
Italian Attacks Succeed.

London, June 20.—By counter-attacking all along the Piave the Italians have gained further ground on the Montello, in the northern sector of the river front, and have also made headway southeast of this ridge, says the Evening Standard today.

The Austrians here had been occupying a narrow strip along the river bank. The Italians drove in the Austrian line and established themselves on the bank of the Piave below Saletto (about eighteen miles from the Adriatic). Through the reaching of the river here the positions occupied by the Austrians have been divided.

(Associated Press)
Vienna, June 20, via London.—The Austrian troops under Field Marshal Von Boroevic, have held all the ground they gained from the Italians on west bank of the Piave, today's official war office report states, and in addition have driven the Italians back westward, south of the railway that leads to Treviso.

The new advance was made with the aid of infantry divisions under Gen. Baron Scharizer.

The Italians attacked again southeast of Asiago on the mountain front, the statement adds, but met with the same poor success as on previous occasions.

The battle in the Montello region increased in violence yesterday, equalling that of the great battles on the Carso front. The official statement says the Italians drove forward six times and employed reserves indiscriminately, but all their efforts were in vain.

Rome, June 20.—From the Montello to the sea the battle of the Piave river is continuing bitterly and without pause, the Italian war office announced today. Last night the Italians forced the invaders to withdraw their whole front north of the Montebelluno railway. More than 1,200 Austrian prisoners were taken and numerous machine guns were captured.

Italian military officials learned before the Austrian offensive began, says a semi-official note issued today, that the Austrians had dressed Italian-speaking Austrian soldiers in Italian uniforms in order to throw them at a suitable moment into the entente allied lines so as to provoke panic and disorder.

Captured Austrians so garbed were executed after a drumhead court-martial, in accordance with the laws of war.

The Austrians yesterday afternoon, says the statement, launched a fresh attack on the Piave with strong forces and succeeded at first in gaining some ground in front of Zenson. Later Italian reserves were brought up and forced the Austrians to retire.

French forces on the Asiago plateau stormed the Austrian positions at Bertigo and Pennar. Italian troops succeeded in capturing Costalunga, the statement adds.

HOOVER TO BE GUEST
OF BRITISH NATION

(Associated Press)
London, June 20.—The British food ministry announces that Herbert C. Hoover, American food administrator, will be the guest of the nation when he visits England in a few weeks. The ministry expects that Mr. Cotton, of the meat division; Mr. Be of the milling division; and Mr. Jackson, vice-president of the grain corporation, will accompany Mr. Hoover.

soldiers looked on today an Italian airplane brought about the surrender of the crew of an Austrian machine gun boat after the Italian infantry and artillery had failed to subjugate it.

The Austrians brought the float up on the swollen Piave river to a point on the south bank occupied by the Italians. From this vantage point the Austrians poured a harassing fire into the Italians, who tried in vain to destroy the float. It was impossible to use light artillery to any great extent because of the proximity of the float to the Italian lines. Finally an Italian airplane swooped down upon the river and forced the occupants of the float to swim to the right bank and surrender to the Italian soldiers.

The arrival of allied air fighters to assist the Italians has heartened the Italian air force, which is much wearied after six days of heroic work. Italian aviators have spent days at a time in the air, thereby virtually securing control of the air and also preventing bombardment of cities behind the lines.

Deserted by his staff on the Montello plateau, Maj.-Gen. Von Kronstadt, of the Austrian army, fought single-handed against the Italian Arditi until he was wounded seriously. The general died later in a hospital.

It seems that the general and his staff became lost in the woods of Montello and ran into a unit of Arditi. When the members of the staff saw the Italian soldiers they ran away. The general was called upon to surrender but refused and opened fire on the Arditi. In the exchange of shots he received his death wound.

PEACE DEMONSTRATIONS IN
BERLIN, REPORT CENSORED

(Associated Press)
London, June 20.—Heavily censored private messages received in Stockholm indicate that peace demonstrations were held recently in Berlin, Hamburg and Cologne, and that several workmen were killed and many persons arrested, says a despatch to the Morning Post from Stockholm. The police and military dispersed crowds of demonstrators.

ITALIANS GAIN
AREA ON ASIAGO

In Local Counter-Attacks.
Fighting Termed Lively
Around Montello.

WAS "HUNGER OFFENSIVE"

Austria's Drive Launched for
Internal and Political Reasons, Semi-official Word.

(International News Service)
Rome, June 20.—The Italians have gained more ground in local counter-attacks in the sector of the Asiago plateau, according to the latest report from the Italian war office.

Hundreds of Austro-Hungarian prisoners were captured, as well as machine guns. Fighting, which the official statement termed "lively," is in progress around Montello (on the Piave river) and along the lower Piave.

Hunger Offensive.

London, June 20.—Austria's offensive against Italy, which began last Saturday morning, was launched for internal and political reasons, according to captured documents, said a despatch from Rome today quoting a semi-official statement which had been issued there.

"Austro-Hungarian prisoners call the new drive a 'hunger offensive,'" said the semi-official statement. "First, there was the political necessity of obtaining a military success due to the internal situation in Austria-Hungary; second, the necessity of obtaining supplies and raw materials to meet the wants of the population and the army."

The Austrians hope of overrunning a wide area of Italy and then looting the country, has been smashed.

A communication, issued by the Italian war office last night, said that the Austrians had not been able to renew their attacks between the Asiago plateau and Montello, although they were partial actions in the sectors of Monte Grappa and Montello.

The Italians and their allies carried out strong counter-thrusts on the Asiago plateau which resulted in the capture of prisoners.

"With unceasing pressure we shortened the front opened by the enemy south of the Monte Belluno railway," said the Italian war office.

"On Tuesday afternoon the battle again broke out furiously on the Piave river. New attempts by the enemy to cross to the right bank of the stream from San Andrea to Candellu were repulsed."

"A violent struggle raged in the sector of Fossalta, southeast of Meleno, and north of Caposile. Every yard of ground was the scene of furious combats."

River At Flood Stage.

Terrific losses were inflicted upon the masses of Austrians wedged in the narrow space on the right bank of the river.

The Piave river is in flood stage and many of the bridges over which the Austrians had crossed to the western bank have been swept away, the British war office announced in a statement dealing with the situation on the Italian front.

BOMB BREAKS FROM TANK
BRITANIA; SEVEN HURT

Detroit, Mich., June 20.—Seven men were burned and cut when a bomb broke loose from the British tank Britannia while it stood on exhibition in Cadillac square this afternoon. The men were rushed to a hospital, where it was stated none were seriously hurt.

WOMEN CONDEMNED
TO DEATH BY GERMANS

Amsterdam, June 20.—Sixteen persons, including some women, have been condemned to death by the Germans following their arrest in East Flanders, Belgium, on a suspicion of being guilty of espionage, according to the frontier correspondent of the Telegraaf. It was rumored yesterday that the executions have already been carried out. More than fifty people had been placed under arrest.

POSTAL TELEGRAPHS
RETURN TO WORK

Sixty-two Fired by Postal for Joining Union Return to Keys Thursday.

(International News Service)
Birmingham, Ala., June 20.—Virtually all of the sixty-two employees of the operating department of the Postal Telegraph and Cable company, discharged several weeks ago for avowing their membership in the telegraphers' union, were back at work here Thursday morning. This is a result of the company's decision to comply with the request of the president and the war labor board to make no distinction between union and nonunion operators.

By this compliance, local telegraph officials explained, the company meets with the president's wishes as a war measure and for the period of the war will make no distinction between the organized union operators and the men outside the union.

AMERICANS DRIVE HUNS
BACK ONE KILOMETER

Line Northwest of Chateau Thierry Rectified.
Prisoners Assert That Four Hundred
Men Were Gassed.

(By Henry G. Wales, International News Service Staff Correspondent.)
With the American Army at the Marne, June 20.—The Americans rectified their line northwest of Chateau Thierry last night, eliminating a salient between Torcy and Belleau wood, driving back the Germans a distance of one kilometer (six-tenths of a mile). Prisoners captured at Triangle farm asserted that 400 men were gassed on Tuesday. They declared further that big 12-inch skoda howitzers that have been bombarding the Americans were brought up for use against Paris if the Germans had succeeded in reaching Meaux.

The Americans are promised an official citation in the French army orders for their action at Belleau wood. A second citation permits troops to wear a green shoulder cord called the Fourragere.

(Meaux lies about twenty-three miles southwest of Chateau Thierry and slightly less than that distance from Paris.)

IMAGINATIVE GERMAN
WRITER IS STUMPED

(International News Service)
London, June 20.—"There is nothing new to report," the German war office announced last Wednesday evening, said a despatch from Berlin.

The brief statement of the Berlin war office shows plainly that the great German surprise attack at Rheims on the night of June 18-19 was a complete failure. Even the imaginative writer of the official communications was unable to make a claim of any kind. The only reference to the engagement in the day report was that infantry detachments followed up "surprise bombardments," taking about fifty prisoners near Rheims.

CROWDER COMPILING
DRAFT STATISTICS

To Submit to Senate Committee Considering Extending Age Limits.

(Associated Press)
Washington, June 20.—Preparation of statistics showing the number of men available for the nation's army if the draft should be extended to the various ages between 18 and 45, was begun today by the officers of the Provost-Marshal General Crowder. This information, it was stated, will be transmitted to the senate military committee which is considering a bill by Senator France, of Maryland, re-publicizing the selective service limits at those ages.

The work of preparing the statistics follows an announcement from Secretary Baker that he no longer is opposed to the proposed age limit extension. The general principle of the bill, endorsed by Gen. Crowder some time ago in stating that class one of those now registered, including the recently announced estimate of 250,000 re-classified men, will be exhausted by the end of this year.

DROWNING OF TWO
SAILORS REPORTED

(International News Service)
Washington, June 20.—Two sailors were drowned June 15 and the bodies recovered, the navy department announced today. They were Walter Asbury Weber, seaman, U. S. S. Louisiana, whose home was in Baltimore, and Thomas Wiley Taylor, electrician, drowned at Wildwood, N. J., while on liberty. His father, Benjamin Franklin Taylor, resides at 1101 Cotton avenue, Birmingham, Ala.

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GERMANS DESTINED BY GOD
FOR GREAT THINGS—KAISER

(Associated Press)
Amsterdam, June 20.—In replying to congratulations from the president of the reichstag on the anniversary of his accession, Emperor William, according to the Frankfurter Zeitung, sent the following telegram:

"Our troops have gained fresh great successes in the most severe struggles. Gratitude to God for them cannot be great enough. May it find expression in the people at home by a spirit of patriotism, confidence and valor, which is splendidly present and gaining an ever-firmer shape."

"The German people, who have offered a bold front to the entire world in long years of struggle, are destined by God for great things, not only for itself, but for all humanity. In this faith we will endure the last struggle till a victorious peace and a blessed future. God grant it."

MUST DUMP COAL
PROMPTLY IS ORDER

(International News Service)
Washington, June 20.—Coal must be dumped promptly in order to release coal cars for further movement, according to a notice served today on the Tidewater coal exchange by the fuel administration. The attention of the fuel administration has been called to the practice of shippers in delaying dumpings in order to hold the car for bunkering, so as to avail themselves of the extra price allowed for foreign bunkering. The practice is quite apparent at South Amboy, N. J., and J. W. Seales, of the Tidewater coal exchange, has been directed to make an investigation of the matter.

BUFFALO PLANT
WORKERS STRIKE

Two Hundred Lay Down Tools
in Curtiss Aeroplane and
Motor Factory.

DEMAND NAVY YARD PAY

Meeting of Eight Hundred Machinists and Toolmakers
Votes Walkout.

(Associated Press)
Buffalo, N. Y., June 20.—A strike at the main plant of the Curtiss aeroplane and motor corporation was inaugurated at 10 o'clock today. Two hundred men, according to union leaders, laid down their tools. Machinists at other plants will be called out at noon, it was announced. James E. Kepperley, general manager, met a committee of the men this morning.

The strike was called as the result of a meeting of eight hundred machinists and tool makers of the plant, which lasted until early today when it was voted to walk out unless granted demands which include an eight-hour day and a wage scale equal to that paid in navy yards for similar work. They also demand the reinstatement of men alleged to have been discharged last month.

Andrew T. McNamara, of Washington, representing the International association of machinists, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, was present. The strike vote is said to have been practically unanimous. The scale of wages at the Curtiss plant ranges from \$4 to \$6 an hour. The navy yard scale, the union claims, grades up to \$1 cents an hour for special work.

U-BOAT TORPEDOED AND
SHELLED BRITISH SHIP

Without Warning—New and
Flagrant Example of Hun
Submarine Barbarity.

(Associated Press)
London, June 20.—A new and flagrant example of German submarine barbarity is reported by the newspapers.

A U-boat first torpedoed without warning and then shelled a British steamer. When the officers and crew of the vessel took to the boats they were ordered to the boats by the submarine and forced to go on its deck, the captain being taken below as a prisoner. As the steamer had not yet sunk, the captain ordered some of the British to row one of their two boats back to her with a German prize crew, which shelled the steamer systematically and then sank her with three bombs.

After having been employed for nearly five hours in the water, the British were given some provisions and cast adrift. The same treatment was dealt out to the others of the crew, numbering twenty-eight.

Of the twenty-eight men in the second boat only five survived until she was picked up four days later. The occupants of the first boat were picked up in a very critical condition on the fifth day by an American steamer.

AMERICAN MILITARY
EFFORT SUSTAINED

(Associated Press)
Paris, June 20.—(Havas Agency)—Talking to the parliamentary army commission today on the military situation, Premier Clemenceau alluded to the American military effort, which he said was being constantly sustained and which was resulting in the steady and safe arrival in France of large numbers of American reinforcements. He spoke also of new decisions made by the British government regarding measures to be taken during the next enemy offensive and upon the situation as regards the defense of Paris.

CONTRACTS LET FOR
UNSINKABLE SHIPS

Washington, June 20.—A new type of "unsinkable" ship is being built in America. It became known here today that contracts for ten of the vessels have been let by the French government to an American yard. The design is the work of a Frenchman and embodies principles hitherto untried, details of which are being kept secret.

WOMEN ALLOWED TO
KEEP HEADS COVERED

(International News Service)
Washington, June 20.—The department of justice has recognized the claims of many religious sects which make it imperative for female members to wear a headress, and in registering female German aliens has permitted the registrants to keep their heads covered in posing for the photographs on their identification card. All United States marshals have been notified that where such a regulation is prescribed by any members of any religious community or denomination, the wearing of the headress as part of the habit will be permitted in taking the photograph.